

7 December 1967

[redacted]
The coordination meeting took place on Thursday. Carver.

[redacted]
(the one we talked to from DDP on the population study) and myself in attendance.

The discussion was almost entirely on the summary. This had been written before [redacted] article had been revised somewhat to lessen its impact. Everyone was willing to accept [redacted] summary but Carver, [redacted] felt that the summary did not say enough good things about the overall progress of the war. It was agreed that a new first paragraph would be prepared by [redacted] and be circulated Friday A.M. I was somewhat impressed with everybody's willingness to go along with the essential elements in [redacted] summary, which indicates that in the last six months things haven't been going too well for us. I would make sure that the redraft when compared with the original draft hasn't been watered down too much.

(attached below)

My own position had been that the important conclusion in the report was the change in the trend in the last six months, and we should not give unwarranted attention to the great successes we had made in all of 1966. The emphasis should be on the current situation and its implications that we have a long way to go.

[redacted]